



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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FOR

IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

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FEMA TELEREGISTRATION NUMBER AVAILABLE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Assistance Available for Individuals & Businesses in 9 Counties and in 4 Counties

FRAMINGHAM, MA - Governor Mitt Romney announced today that federal aid would become available to Massachusetts individuals, businesses and communities hardest hit by the most recent flooding events. The assistance was authorized under a Major Federal Disaster Declaration issued by President George W. Bush after a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's analysis of Governor Romney's request for federal assistance for those most impacted by the flooding beginning on October 9, 2005 and continuing.

The President's action makes Individual Assistance (IA) Programs available to affected individuals and businesses in a 9 county area. The counties include Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk, Bristol, and Plymouth Counties.

The IA Programs are for individuals who have suffered damage to their homes or businesses. Assistance, coordinated by MEMA and FEMA, can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Individuals and business owners, who sustained losses in the designated counties, can initiate the application for assistance process by calling the FEMA Teleregistration number: **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the hearing and speech impaired or

registering on-line at www.fema.gov. The toll-free Teleregistration numbers will operate from **8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday through Friday**, until further notice.

The Public Assistance (PA) Program will be made available to assist communities with infrastructure damage in the 4 counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden. The PA program will assist communities with a 75% share of the costs to repair infrastructure damage (roads, bridges, dams, public buildings, etc.). Briefings for local officials, regarding the PA Program, will begin shortly.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA go to www.mass.gov/mema.